GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:164
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2000
ARMS SCANDAL .
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Govt. turns blind eye to arms racket` appearing in the Indian Express dated February 12, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether cases of issuing weapon licences to criminals in Maharashtra have been brought to the notice of the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the officials responsible for issuing licences to criminals; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to stop such practice ?

Answer

MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K.ADVANI)
(a)&(b)Yes, Sir. Complaints regarding indiscriminate issue of arms licences by the licensing authority in the State of Nagaland have been received in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
(c)&(d)Licensing authorities in Nagaland have issued arms licences to certain persons not belonging to Nagaland. Some are suspected to have obtained the licences fraudulently.
(e)&(f)Government of India drew the attention of the State Government to this matter. The Government of Nagaland consequently has ordered an enquiry into the matter. Pending this enquiry, Government of India has advised the Govt. of Nagaland on 2.2.2000 not to issue licences having all India validity.